

ABORIGINAL AMERICAN BASKETRY.<sup>1</sup>

THE attention of our readers has several times been directed to papers and memoirs by American students on aboriginal American basketry; some authors, like L. Farrand ("Basketry Designs of the Salish Indians," *Mem. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, ii., 5), G. T. Emmons ("The Basketry of the Tlingit," *l.c.* iii., 2), R. B. Dixon ("Basketry Designs of the Maidu Indians of California," *Am. Anthropol.*, June, 1900; "Basketry Designs of the Indians of Northern California," *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, xvii.), and a few others have studied the designs plaited in baskets, and have discovered their symbolism. W. H. Holmes ("A Study of the Textile Art in its Relation to the Development of Form and Ornament," Sixth Ann. Rept. Bureau Ethnol.) was one of the first to direct attention to the effect of the technique on the ornamentation of baskets, while the technique itself of basketry has persistently been studied by Dr. Otis T. Mason, and now he has increased the indebtedness of ethnologists to his labours by the publication of a monograph which gives a much needed general survey of aboriginal basketry in America.

As is usual in publications coming from the United States, this work is lavishly illustrated, there being 212 figures in the text and 248 beautiful plates, several of which are coloured. The memoir deals with basket

enables us for the first time to make a comprehensive survey of this beautiful industry as practised by the aborigines of North America, for, despite its title, the basketry of Mexico and of Central and South America is only cursorily dealt with in this monograph.

Owing to differences of climate, rainfall, and other characteristics of environment, the materials for



FIG. 2.—Modified Forms on Basketry.

basketry vary greatly from region to region throughout America, and this in spite of all ethnic considerations. Again, the motives for the use of basketry differ from place to place, so much so that peoples of one blood make one ware in this place and another in that. Finally, however, writes Dr. Mason, it must never be forgotten that the ideas, utilitarian and artistic, in the minds of the manufacturers themselves, serve to bestow special marks upon the work of different tribes, so as to give to them ethnic or national significance in any circumstances. Were there no mixture of tribes it might be possible to state in every case the maker of each specimen from the technique and the ornamentation; but throughout the entire continent the practice of capturing women was common, and in each case the stolen ones carried to their homes the processes they had been familiar with in their native tribe, and, further, the materials for basketry were traded, as were probably the baskets themselves. New designs are occasionally introduced along with ancient patterns, as may be seen in Fig. 2, where dogs and horses are interspersed among pre-Columbian decoration; indeed, the influence of the white man is very rapidly modifying native American basketry; "in methods, forms and colours truly old things have passed away, and, behold, all things have become new."

A. C. H.



FIG. 1.—Pomo Basket-maker.

making (including a valuable section by F. V. Coville on the plants used in basketry), ornamentation and symbolism, uses of basketry, and ethnic varieties of baskets. The last section is the most valuable, as it

<sup>1</sup> "Aboriginal American Basketry: Studies in a Textile Art without Machinery." By Otis Tufton Mason. Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1902, U.S. National Museum (1904).

### THE MINING STATISTICS OF THE WORLD.

ONE of the recommendations of a Departmental Committee of 1894 was that the British mining industry should be compared with similar industries of other countries, and from that time Sir Clement Le Neve Foster compiled annually for the Home Office an invaluable collection of comparative mineral statistics. Every year the report showed improvement, and every year the difficulties arising from want of adequate official statistics were more nearly obviated. While the present report was in preparation Sir

Clement Le Neve Foster died, and it has therefore not had the advantage of his exceptional technical knowledge, literary skill, and critical acumen in its final revision. His loss to the Home Office is a serious one, and it will be difficult to find an editor with his wide acquaintance with foreign mining literature to fill his place.

The information given in the report deals with the number of persons employed, the quantity and value of minerals produced, and the loss of life from accidents in mines and quarries throughout the world. The statistics given in this concise, intelligible and inexpensive form are of the greatest importance from a commercial point of view. In the United Kingdom alone the value of the minerals produced in 1902, the year under review, was 107,104,884*l.*, and the vast sums representing British capital invested in mines in all parts of the world will be readily appreciated. Some indication of the growth of the mining industry during recent years is indicated by the following comparison of the world's output of metals in 1889 and in 1902:—

		1889 Metric tons		1902 Metric tons
Iron ... ..	...	26,000,000	...	42,669,000
Gold ... ..	...	182	...	447
Silver ... ..	...	3,900	...	4,753
Copper ... ..	...	266,000	...	572,000
Lead ... ..	...	549,000	...	803,000
Zinc ... ..	...	335,000	...	503,000
Tin ... ..	...	55,000	...	93,000

In 1902 the world produced 803,157,000 tons of coal, 22,869,000 tons of petroleum, and 13,279,000 tons of salt. Of the coal supply, 34 per cent. was furnished by the United States, 29.5 per cent. by the United Kingdom, and 19.4 per cent. by Germany. Although the United States outstripped Great Britain in production, the value of the British product was 93,521,000*l.*, whilst that of the American was 75,373,000*l.*

As gold producers, the British possessions take the first place, furnishing more than half the world's supply. Australia supplied 24 per cent., the Transvaal 12 per cent., and Canada 7 per cent. of the total. The United States contributed 27 per cent. The value of the total production exceeds 60,000,000*l.* Nearly one-fourth of the world's salt and three-fifths of the tin are produced by the British Empire. On the other hand, the production of copper, lead, petroleum, silver, and zinc is small in comparison with the world's output. Of copper, the United States, with the enormous output of 299,000 tons, produce more than half the copper of the world, and Spain and Portugal together about one-tenth. The United States also produce most lead, 30 per cent. of the world's total, Spain and Germany following. Russia and the United States are the two great petroleum producers. In the British Empire, Canada and Burma are the only oil regions, and their production is comparatively small. Of silver, the United States again are the largest producers, followed closely by Mexico. The German Empire, with its rich Silesian mines, is the leading zinc-producing country, furnishing one-third of the world's supply. The United States take second place in the list. Of other valuable minerals raised in 1902, diamonds to the value of 4,950,000*l.* were produced in Cape Colony. Italy has no equal for its sulphur (value 1,706,000*l.*), Chili for its nitrate of soda (value 9,500,000*l.*), Germany for its potassium salts (value 2,000,000*l.*), Spain for its mercury (value 173,000*l.*), and the United States for their phosphates (value 1,000,000*l.*).

Any strictly accurate comparison between the number of persons employed in the mining industries of the various countries is impossible. The figures collected

are, however, sufficient to give a general idea of the relative importance of mining in each country. The total number of persons engaged in mining and quarrying throughout the world may be taken at 4,500,000, of whom one-fifth are employed in the United Kingdom and one-third in the British Empire. More than half the total number were employed in mining coal, Great Britain employing 750,000, the United States and Germany each 500,000, France 165,000, Belgium 135,000, Austria 123,000, and India 100,000.

The accident statistics are not so complete as might be wished. For coal mines, the figures show that the death rate from accidents in mines and quarries per 1000 persons employed is 1.24 in the United Kingdom, 1.46 in the British Empire, 1.09 in France, 1.93 in Germany, and 3.25 in the United States. The death rate for foreign countries generally is 2.20. It is evident that mining is conducted in Great Britain with a far smaller risk of accident to the workers than in most other countries.

The first part of the general report on mines and quarries for 1903 has also been issued. It contains statistics of the number of persons employed, the output of minerals, and the number of accidents in the United Kingdom. The British production in 1903 included 230,334,469 tons of coal, 16,198,021 tons of clays and shale, and 13,715,645 tons of iron ore.

B. H. B.

#### NOTES.

IN the long list of birthday honours published on Friday last, we notice that Mr. Charles Booth, F.R.S., has been made a Privy Councillor; and that the honour of knighthood has been conferred upon Prof. J. Dewar, F.R.S., and Dr. T. Stevenson, scientific analyst to the Home Office. The Colonial Office list includes the name of Prof. W. Baldwin Spencer, F.R.S., who has been appointed a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (C.M.G.).

H.R.H. PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG will privately inaugurate the annual exhibition of the Beni Hasan excavations committee at the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries in Burlington House. The exhibits include the antiquities discovered at Beni Hasan and Negada by Mr. John Garstang, reader in Egyptian archaeology in the University of Liverpool, and paintings by Mr. Harold Jones, artist to the expedition. The exhibition will be open from July 8-23 inclusive.

THE French Society of Civil Engineers has this year awarded its prizes as follows:—the annual prize to M. J. Bernard for his work on the installation in the Red Sea of three lighthouses in circumstances of especial difficulty. The Michel Alcan prize was awarded to M. L. Guillet for his researches on the composition of steel, and the F. Coignet prize went to M. V. Picou for his work on the regulation of dynamos. A prize was awarded to Prof. E. Hospitalier for his works on the study of phenomena which by their rapidity and frequency baffle ordinary methods of analysis.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES has consented to become patron of the Royal Meteorological Society.

THE twenty-second congress of the Sanitary Institute will be held in Glasgow from July 25-30, under the presidency of Lord Blythwood. Sir Richard Douglas Powell, Bart., K.C.V.O., will deliver the lecture to the congress on "The Prevention of Consumption." It appears from the programme that 250 authorities, including several county